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EXAMINER

SAMUEL, DEWANDA A

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/705,205	Applicant(s) CHOI ET AL.	
	Examiner DEWANDA SAMUEL	Art Unit 2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-60 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 54-60 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/12/2004, 03/15/2007, and 12/09/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the communication filed on 04/29/2008.
2. Claims 1-60 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-60 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. **Claims 7 and 42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rom (US Patent 6,360,264).

With regard to claim 7, A handoff method for an access point of a mobile station in a wireless local area network, the method comprising: collecting channel information on access points in an extended service set in response to receiving a handoff alert message, from the mobile station and outputting a response message corresponding to the handoff alert message to the mobile station, the

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response message including the channel information, **(Rom discloses selecting a new access point, the node ("mobile station") communicates an instruction to the current access point instructing it to relay a message to the selected access point, requesting that the selected access point accept the handoff of the node interpreted as "outputting a handoff alert message to the previous access point", see column 5 line 18-22)**; wherein the collecting channel information and outputting a response message occurs prior to selection of a new access point in the extended service set **(see column 4 line 24-67, node detects the quality of the radio link interpreted as the channel information and responding to a request from the access point)**

With regard to claim 42, discloses having a computer readable medium encoded with operating instructions for implementing a handoff method for an access point of a mobile station in a wireless local area network, performed by a computer, the method comprising: collecting channel information on access points in an extended service set in response to receiving a handoff alert message from the mobile station; and outputting a response message corresponding to the handoff alert message to the mobile station, the response message including the channel information, **(Rom discloses selecting a new access point, the node ("mobile station") communicates an instruction to the current access point instructing it to relay a message to the selected access point, requesting that the selected access point accept the handoff of the node interpreted as "outputting a handoff alert message**

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to the previous access point", see column 5 line 18-22); wherein the collecting channel information and outputting a response message occurs prior to selection of a new access point in the extended service set. **(see column 4 line 24-67, node detects the quality of the radio link interpreted as the channel information and responding to a request from the access point)**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. **Claims 2,5,11-16,18, 20-26,28,29,33,34,38-40,43-46,48-51,52, and 53** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lefkowitz (US Patent 6,990,343).

With regard to claim 5, a handoff method for a mobile station in a wireless local area network, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 with a fast handoff method , see fig 1 and 2, column 11. line 52)**, the method

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comprising: selecting a new access point, (**Lefkowitz discloses having a STA 205 that performs a scan for signals from other WAP (wireless access points) of sufficient strength, with the STA 205 normally choosing the WAP with the greatest strength, for example WAP#2 215 interpreted as “selecting new access point”, see column 6 line 24-26);**

outputting a reassociation message to the new access point; (**Lefkowitz discloses after finding WAP#2 215, the STA 205 transmit a "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 to WAP#2 215 interpreted as “new access point” (see column 6 line 27-29).**

and receiving a reassociation response message from the new access point in response to a temporary connection being established between the new access point and a previous access point of the mobile station, (**Lefkowitz further discloses the WAP#2 215 responds with a "REASSOCIATE-RESPONSE" packet 245 inter[reted as “association message” see column 6 line 34-35)... after the STA 205 sent the REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 it establish a connection between WAP#2 215 interpreted as “new access point” , see column 6 line 39-50) also the connection may be temporary depending on the reassociate- response from WAP#2 215. In addition , Lefkowitz sends a Disasscoiation packet 255 to completely severs any remaining connection the STA 205 had with WAP #1 210 interpreted as “previous access point”, see column 6 line 44-46).**

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With regard to claim 11, Lefkowitz discloses a handoff method for an access point of a mobile station in a wireless local area network the method comprising: establishing a temporary connection with a previous access point of the mobile station in response to receiving a reassociation message, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a. fast handoff method within a wireless communications network 100 (see fig. 1 and column 11 line 52). Lefkowitz further discloses that STA 205 transmit a "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 to the WAP#2 215... the "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 is a specifically addressed to WAP#2 215 that effectively request that WAP #2 215 allow the STA 205 to establish a communication link with it (see column 6 line 27-40); outputting a reassociation response message corresponding to the reassociation message to the mobile station in response to establishing the temporary connection; establishing an optimum connection with the mobile station; and terminating the temporary connection with the previous access point in response to establishing the optimum connection, (Lefkowitz further discloses the WAP#2 215 responds with a "REASSOCIATE-RESPONSE" packet 245 interpreted as "association message" see column 6 line 34-35)... after the STA 205 sent the REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 it establish a connection between WAP#2 215 interpreted as "new access point" , see column 6 line 39-50) also the connection may be temporary depending on the reassociate- response from WAP#2 215. In addition , Lefkowitz sends a Disassociation packet 255 to completely severs any remaining connection the STA 205 had with WAP #1 210**

interpreted as “previous access point”, see column 6 line 44-46).

With regard to claim 12, Lefkowitz teaches the method recited in claim 11. further comprising buffering data received from the previous access point through the temporary connection,(**Lefkowitz discloses that WAP #2 215 allow the STA 205 to establish a communication link with it and that WAP#2 215 will distribute context information to the DS (distribution system) for the STA 205 (see column 6 line 27-40). Lefkowitz further discloses the new context information for the STA 205 is used to route packets to and from STA 205, see column 6 line 15-20).**

With regard to claim 13, Lefkowitz teaches the method recited in claim 12. further comprising stopping the buffering of the data in response to the reassociation response message being sent to the mobile station, (Lefkowitz discloses upon the receipt of the "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 245 from WAP#2 215 the STA 205 returns and ACKNOWLEDMENT' packet 250. At the same time the STA 205 transmit a "DIASSOCIATE" packet 255 to the WAP#1 210. The "DIASSOCIATE" packet 255 completely severs any remaining connection the STA 205 had remaining with the WAP#1 210 (see column 6 line 42-46). It is inferred that packets destined for STA 205 connected to WAP #1 210 will be redirected to the new WAP#2 215. Lefkowitz further discloses the new context information for the STA 205 is used to route packets to and from STA 205, see column 6 line 15-20).

With regard to claim 14, Lefkowitz teaches the method recited in claim 11.

Wherein the establishing of the temporary connection comprises: outputting a temporary connection request message to the previous access point, (**Lefkowitz discloses to begin handoff, the STA 205 must initiate the termination of its existing communication link with the first WAP#1 210 by sending a "ASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 220 to WAP#1 interpreted as "temporary connection request message", see column 5 line 52-67); and receiving a temporary connection response message from the previous access point. Lefkowitz discloses having a "ASSOCIATE-RESPONSE" packet 220 interpreted as "temporary connection request message" sent by WAP#1 (see column 5 line 62-63).**

With regard to claim 15, Lefkowitz teaches the method recited in claim 11.

Wherein the terminating of the temporary connection comprises: outputting a temporary connection termination request message to the previous access point; and receiving a temporary connection termination response message from the previous access point. **Lefkowitz discloses upon the receipt of the "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 245 from WAP#2 215 the STA 205 returns and ACKNOWLEDMENT' packet 250. At the same time the STA 205 transmit a "DIASSOCIATE" packet 255 interpreted as**

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“temporary connection termination request message” to the WAP#1 210. The "DIASSOCIATE" packet 255 completely severs any remaining connection the STA 205 had remaining with the WAP#1 210 (see column 6 line 42-46). It is inferred that packets destined for STA 205 connected to WAP #1 210 will be redirected to the new WAP#2 215. Lefkowitz further discloses the new context information for the STA 205 is used to route packets to and from STA 205, see column 6 line 15-20).

With regard to claim 16, Lefkowitz discloses having a handoff method for a mobile station in a wireless local area network,(**Lefkowitz discloses having a fast handoff method within a wireless communications network 100 (see fig. 1 and column 11 line 52),** the method comprising: selecting a new access point by scanning channels; **(Lefkowitz discloses having a the WAP#1 beginning to look for a new WAP (wireless access point) and STA 205 may scan for signals from other WAPs (wireless access points) of sufficient strength, STA 205 normally choosing the WAP with the greatest signal strength (see column 6 line 22-26); and reassociating with the new access point in response to a temporary connection being established between the new access point and the present access point, (Lefkowitz discloses after finding WAP#2 215, the STA 205 transmit a "REASSOCIATE_REQUEST" packet 240 to the WAP#2 215 (see column 6 line 27-29). Lefkowitz discloses to begin handoff, the STA 205 must initiate the termination of its existing**

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communication link with the first WAP#1 210 by sending a "ASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 220 to WAP#1 ("temporary connection request message", column 5 line 52-67).

However, Lefkowitz does not explicitly disclose channel information received from a present access point.). Zhong further discloses each AP interpreted as access point includes a nearest neighbor table of immediate neighboring AP and their corresponding channel operation interpreted as "channel information" see page 2 para[0032].

With regard to claim 18, in combination Lefkowitz and teaches the access point recited in claim 17. distributed service unit, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 interpreted as a wireless local area network") with several wireless access points interpreted as "access points", column 4 line 34-36) notifying a distribution system (DS) , see column 6 line 10-12).**

However, Lefkowitz does not disclose storing the channel information. Rudolf et al. discloses access points obtain assistance data (i.e. neighbor list or neighbor information) using OAM, also the access point has a processor that stores neighbor information in memory interpreted as "distributed service unit",see page 2 paragraph 24 line 1-7).

With regard to claim 20, in combination Lefkowitz teaches the access point recited in claim 17. Further comprising: a reassociation message process unit which receives a reassociation message from the mobile station and outputs a response message corresponding to the reassociation message to the mobile station, **(Lefkowitz discloses that STA 205 transmit a "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 to the WAP#2 215... the "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 is a specifically addressed to WAP#2 215 that effectively request that WAP#2 215 allow the STA 205 to establish a communication link with it (column 6 line 27-40)... the WAP#2 215 responds with a "REASSOCIATE-RESPONSE" packet 245 to STA 205, see column 6 line 34-36);** and a temporary connection termination process unit which establishes a temporary connection with a previous access point of the mobile station using information included in the reassociation message and terminates the temporary connection in response to an optimum connection being established with the mobile station, **(Lefkowitz discloses that the both WAP#1 210 and WAP#2 215 have the capability to process temporary connections and also terminate connections by sending a Disassociation packet 255 , see column 5 line 52-67 and column 6 line 30- 50).**

With regard to claim 21, in combination Lefkowitz and teaches the access point recited in claim 20. wherein the reassociation message process unit outputs the response message to the mobile station in response to the temporary connection being established,(**Lefkowitz discloses the WAP#2 215 responds with a "REASSOCIATE-RESPONSE" packet 245 interpreted as "reassociation message" to STA 205, see column 6 line 34-36**). It is inferred that the WAP ("access point") has the capability to process "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 and respond by sending a "REASSOCIATE-RESPONSE" packet 245 interpreted as "response message".

With regard to claim 22, in combination Lefkowitz and teaches the access point recited in claim 20. further comprising an optimum connection search unit which establishes the optimum connection with the mobile station,(**Lefkowitz discloses that WAP#1 210 is able to detect low level signals on the outer limits of the effective coverage area as STA 205 approaches, see column 5 line 38-67**). It is inferred that the WAP have the ability to detect signals that are weak or strong.

With regard to claim 23, Lefkowitz discloses having an access point performing a handoff with respect to a mobile station in a wireless local area network the access point comprising: a reassociation message process unit which receives a reassociation message and outputs a response message corresponding to the reassociation message to the mobile station; (**Lefkowitz discloses that STA 205 transmit a "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 to the WAP#2 215... the "REASSOCIATE-**

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REQUEST packet 240 interpreted as "reassociation message" is a specifically addressed to WAP#2 215 that effectively request that WAP #2 215 allow the STA 205 to establish a communication link with it (column 6 line 27-40)... the WAP#2 215 responds with a "REASSOCIATE-RESPONSE" packet 245 interpreted as "response message" to STA 205, see column 6 line 34-36). It is inferred that the WAP interpreted as a "access point" has the capability to process "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 and respond by sending a "REASSOCIATE- RESPONSE" packet 245; and a temporary connection/termination process unit which establishes a temporary connection with a previous access point of the mobile station using information included in the reassociation message, (**Lefkowitz discloses that the both WAP#1 210 and WAP#2 have the capability to process temporary connection and also terminate connection by sending "DIASSOCIATE" packet 255 that completely severs any remaining connection the STA 205 had remaining with the WAP#1 210 (see column 6 line 42-46)**

With regard to claim 24, Lefkowitz teaches the access point recited in claim 23. further comprising an optimum connection search unit which establishes an optimum connection with the mobile station, (**Lefkowitz discloses that WAP#1 210 is able to detect low level signals on the outer limits of the effective coverage area as STA 205 approaches see column 5 line 38-67).** It is inferred that the WAP have the ability to detect signals that are weak or strong.

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With regard to claim 25, Lefkowitz teaches the access point recited in claim 23. wherein the temporary connection/termination process unit terminates the temporary connection in response to an optimum connection being established with the mobile station(**Lefkowitz discloses that the both WAP#1 210 and WAP#2 have the capability to process temporary connection and also terminate connection by sending "DIASSOCIATE" packet 255 that completely severs any remaining connection the STA 205 had remaining with the WAP#1 210 (see column 6 line 42-46)**)

With regard to claim 26, Lefkowitz teaches the access point recited in claim 23. Wherein the access point buffers data received from the previous access point through the temporary connection, (**Lefkowitz discloses that WAP#2 215 allowed STA 205 to establish communication link with it, then theWAP#2 215 would notify the DS (distributed system) of the new context information for STA 205, see column 6 line 30-34)... the context may contain network addresses and other network configuration information about the STA 205, information that is critical in getting packets to and from the STA 205, see column 5 line 58-61).**It is inferred that the temporary communication link between WAP#2 215 and STA 205 will seamlessly allow packets to continue to be received by STA 205 until a complete disconnection from the original WAP.

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With regard to claim 28, Lefkowitz discloses having, a mobile station for use in a wireless local area network, (**Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication. network 100 in fig. 1 with STAs interpreted as “mobile stations”**), comprising: a handoff alert message process unit which receives channel information on access points different from a present access point an extended service set from the present access point, (**Lefkowitz discloses having a WAP#1 210 transmitting a message ("handoff alert message") to the STA 205 ("mobile station") to let it know that it is starting to move out of the effective coverage area of the WAP#1 210 and that it should start to look for an alternate wireless access point, see column 5 line 38-45**). Lefkowitz further discloses that STA 205 may perform a scan for signals from other WAPs (wireless access points, see column 5 line 29-67). It is inferred the STA 205 have the means to scan the channel for signals,.

With regard to claim 29, Lefkowitz teaches the mobile station recited in claim 28. further comprising an access point selection unit which selects an access point with a strongest signal as the new access point according to a scanning result of the scanning unit, (**Lefkowitz discloses having STA 205 that performing a scan and selecting the WAP with the greatest signal strength, see column 6 line 22-27**).

With regard to claim 30, Lefkowitz teaches the mobile station recited in claim 28. further comprising a distributed service unit which Stores the channel information on

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the access points. ,(**Lefkowitz disclose discloses distributed system (DS) interpreted as "distributed service unit" includes information on a WAP (e.g. wireless access point), see column 6 line 10-50.**

With regard to claim 33, Lefkowitz teaches the mobile station recited in claim 28. further comprising a reassociation message process unit which establishes a reassociation with the new access point,(**Lefkowitz discloses having STA 205 generating and processing a "REASSOCIATE" ('reassociation") messages, see column 6 line 27-39).**

With regard to claim 34, Lefkowitz teaches the mobile station recited in claim 33. Further comprising a reassociation message process unit which outputs a reassociation message including information on the present access point, (**Lefkowitz disclose STA 205 sending a "REASSOCIATE" message, see column 6 line 27-29).** a reassociation message including information on the present access point and receives a reassociation response message from the new access point in response to a temporary connection being established between the new access point and the present access point, (**Lekowitz disclose having STA 205 receiving a "REASSOCIATE RESPONSE" WAP#2 215 interpreted as "new access point", see column 6 line 34-39)...the "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" that the STA 205 sent to WAP#2 215 allowed STA 205 to establish a communication link with it and that WAP#2 will distribute context information to the DS (distribution system) for STA 205, see column 6 line**

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29-34).

With regard to claim 38, Lefkowitz disclose having a computer readable medium encoded with Operating instructions for implementing a handoff method for a mobile station in a wireless local area network, performed by a computer, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 with a fast handoff method, see fig 1 and 2, column 11 line 52)**, the method comprising: receiving channel information on access points in an extended service set from a present access point of the mobile station, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a STA 205 that performs a scan for signals from other WAP of sufficient strength, with the STA 205 normally choosing the WAP with the greatest strength, see column 6 line 24-26)** and the ESS 105 in fig. 1 of the wireless communication network 100 contains at least three other WAPs (wireless access points) 120, 130, and 140 with their own corresponding effective coverage areas 122, 132, and 142 , see column 5 line 17-20); and scanning channels on the access points by using the channel information to select a new access point of the mobile station, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a STA 205 that performs a scan for signals from other WAP (wireless access points) of sufficient strength, with the STA 205 normally choosing the WAP with the greatest strength , see column 6 line 24-26).**

With regard to claim 39, Lefkowitz teaches the computer readable medium in claim 38. further comprising outputting a handoff alert message to the present access

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point, **see column 5 line 52-67**); wherein the receiving of the channel information comprises receiving a response message corresponding to the handoff alert message, **see column 6 line 5-21**); the response message including the channel information, **see column 6 line 5-21**).

With regard to claim 40, Lefkowitz discloses a computer readable medium encoded with Operating instructions for implementing a handoff method for a mobile station in a wireless local area network, performed by a computer,(**Lefkowitz discloses having wireless communication network 100 with a wireless communication device interpreted as "computer readable medium encoded with operating instructions" performing a fast handoff (title)**, the method comprising: selecting a new access point,(**Lefkowitz discloses that STA 205 begins a process of handoff from its current WAP to another access point and selecting the WAP with the greatest signal strength , see column 6 line 22-25**) ; outputting a reassociation message to the new access point, (**Lefkowitz discloses the STA 205 transmit a "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 to the selected WAP#2 215, see column 6 line 28-29**); and receiving a reassociation response message from the new access point in response to a temporary connection being established between the new access point and a previous access point of the mobile station, (**Lefkowitz discloses STA 205 receives "REASSOCIATE-RESPONSE" packet 245 from WAP#2 215, see column 6 line 38-40**). Lefkowitz further discloses in the beginning of the handoff process STA 205 must initiate a termination of the communication link, see

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column 5 line 52-54) and once STA 205 locate another WAP (wireless access point) the remaining connection is severed completely, see column 6 line 42-46).

With regard to claim 43, Lefkowitz discloses having a computer readable medium encoded with operating instructions for implementing a handoff method for an access point a mobile station in a wireless local area network, performed by a computer, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a fast handoff method within a wireless communications network 100, see fig. 1 and column 11 line 52);** the method comprising: establishing a temporary connection with a previous access point of the mobile station in response to receiving a reassociation message, **(Lefkowitz discloses that STA 205 transmit a "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 to the WAP#2 215... the "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 is a specifically addressed to WAP#2 215 that effectively request that WAP #2 215 allow the STA 205 to establish a communication link with it, see column 6 line 27-40);** outputting a reassociation response message corresponding to the reassociation message to the mobile station in response to establishing the temporary connection, **(Lefkowitz discloses the WAP#2 responds with a "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 245 that provides an answer to the "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240, see column 6 line 34-36);** establishing an optimum connection with the mobile station, **(Lefkowitz discloses that WAP #2 215 allow the STA 205 to establish a communication link interpreted as "optimum connection" ,see column 6 line 27-**

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40); and terminating the temporary connection with the previous access point in response to establishing the optimum connection, **(Lefowitz discloses that STA 205 transmit a "DIASSOCIATE" packet 255 to the WAP#1 210. The "DIASSOCIATE packet 255 completely severs interpreted as "terminating the temporary connection" any remaining connection the STA 205 had remaining with the WAP#1 210, see column 6 line 42-46).**

With regard to claim 44, Lefkowitz discloses having a method in a computer system for implementing a handoff of a mobile station in a wireless local area network, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a fast handoff method within a wireless communications network 100 , see fig.1 and column 11 line 52),** the method comprising: controlling a channel information collection unit to collect channel information on access points in an extended service set in response to receiving a handoff alert message from the mobile station,**(Lefkowitz discloses WAP#1 detects low signal levels within a effective coverage area (e.g. Extended Service Set, see column 5 line 38-45);** and controlling a handoff alert message process unit to output a response message corresponding to the handoff alert message to the mobile station, the channel information being included in the response message,**(Lefkowitz discloses that the both WAP#1 210 and WAP#2 215 have the capability to process temporary connection and also terminate connection, see column 5line 52-67 and**

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column 6 line 30- 50).

With regard to claim 45, Lefkowitz discloses having a method in a computer system for implementing a handoff of a mobile station in a wireless local area network, the method comprising: controlling a temporary connection/termination process unit to establish a temporary connection with a previous access point of the mobile station in response to receiving a reassociation message from the mobile station,(**Lefkowitz discloses that the both WAP#1 210 and WAP#2 215 have the capability to process temporary connections and also terminate connections , see column 5 line 52-67 and column 6 line 30-50**); and controlling a reassociation message process unit to output a response message corresponding to the reassociation message to the mobile station in response to establishing the temporary connection,(**Lefkowitz discloses STA 205 transmit a "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 to the WAP#2 215... the "REASSOCIATE- REQUEST" packet 240 is a specifically addressed to WAP#2 215 that effectively request that WAP #2 215 allow the STA 205 to establish a communication link with it , see column 6 line 27-40)...the WAP#2 215 responds with a "REASSOCIATE-RESPONSE" packet 245 to STA 205 , see column 6 line 34-36**). It is inferred that the WAP ("access point") has the capability to process "REASSOCIATE- REQUEST" packet 240 and respond by sending a "REASSOCIATE-RESPONSE" packet 245.

With regard to claim 46, Lefkowitz teaches the method recited in claim 45. further comprising: controlling an optimum connection search unit to establish an optimum connection with the mobile station,(**Lefkowitz discloses that WAP#1 210 is able to detect low level signals on the outer limits of the effective coverage area as STA 205 approaches, It is inferred that the WAP have the ability to detect signals that are weak or strong, and controlling the temporary connection/termination process unit to terminate the temporary connection with the previous access point in response to establishing the optimum connection. Lefkowitz discloses that the both WAP#1 210 and WAP#2 215 have the capability to process temporary connection and also terminate connection, see column 5 line 52-67 and column 6 line 30-50).**

With regard to claim 48, Lefkowitz discloses having a method in a computer system for implementing a handoff of a mobile station in a wireless local area network, the method comprising: controlling a handoff alert message process unit to obtain channel information on access points different from a present access point in an extended service set from a present access point, (**Lefkowitz discloses having a WAP#1 210 transmitting a message ("handoff alert message") to the STA 205 to let it know that it is starting to move out of the effective coverage area of the WAP#1 210 and that it should start to look for an alternate wireless access point , see column 5 line 38-45).** It is inferred that ST.A 205 processes message from the

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WAP#1 210 that let them know that the signal level is getting weaker and that it time to search for a stronger signal generated by another access point.and controlling a scanning unit to scan channels on the access points for a new access point using the channel information, **(Lefkowitz discloses that STA 205 may perform a scan for signals from other WAPs (wireless access points 5 line 38-45).** It is inferred the STA 205 have the means to scan the channel for signals.

With regard to claim 49, Lefkowitz teaches the method recited in claim 48. further comprising controlling an access point selection unit to select an access point with a strongest signal as the new access point according to a scanning result of the scanning unit, **(Lefkowitz discloses having STA 205 that performing a scan and selecting the WAP with the greatest signal strength , see column 6 line 22-27).**

With regard to claim 50, Lefkowitz teaches the method recited in claim 48. further comprising controlling a reassociation message process unit to establish a reassociation with the new access point, **(Lefkowitz discloses having STA 205 generating and processing a "REASSOCIATE" interpreted as a "reassociation" messages , see column 6 line 27-39).**

With regard to claim 52, Lefkowitz discloses an access point performing a handoff with respect to a mobile station in a wireless local area network, **(Lefkowitz discloses having wireless communication network 100 with a WAPs**

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communicating to and from the STA , see column 4 line 63-67 and column 5 line 1- 5). the access point comprising: means for collecting channel information on access points in an extended service set in response to a handoff alert signal; **(Lefkowitz discloses when the WAP#1 210 notices that the STA 205 is starting to approach the outer limits of its effective coverage area, most likely through detection of a lower signal level ("collecting channel information").., the begin of handoff is that STA 205 must initiate the termination of its existing communication link with the first WAP#1 210. This accomplished with STA 205 transmitting an "ASSOCIATE_REQUEST" packet 220 to WAP#1, see column 5 line 38-56).** and means for establishing a temporary connection with a previous access point of the mobile station in response to a reassociation signal, (**Lefkowitz further discloses that STA 205 must initiate the termination of its existing communication link with the first WAP#1 210 and this accomplished with STA 205 transmitting an "ASSOCIATE_REQUEST" packet 220 to WAP#1, see column 5 line 38-56).** Lefkowitz having a "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 240 after finding WAP#2 215 see column 6 line 28-50).

With regard to claim 53, Lefkowitz discloses a mobile station for use in a wireless local area network, **(Lefkowitz discloses having wireless communication network 100 with wireless communication devices referred to as stations or STA for short , see column 4 line 34-67).** comprising: means for receiving channel

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information on an access point different from a present access point in an extended service set from a present access point of the mobile station, (**Lefkowitz discloses that STA 205 ("mobile station") scan and receives signal information ("channel information") from WAPs within ESS (extended service set, see column 6.1line24-13-24)** ; means for scanning channels on the access point different from the present access point for a new access point by using the channel information, (**Lefkowitz discloses that STA 205 ("mobile station") scan and receives signal information interpreted as "channel information") from WAPs , see column 6 line 24-25).** and means for establishing a reassociation with the new access point, (**Lefkowitz further discloses that the STA 205 sends a "REASSOCIATE_REQUEST" packet 240 to the WAP#2 215 , see column 6 line 28-29).**

8. **Claim 51** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dorenbosch et al. (US patent 6,850,503).

With regard to claim 51, Dorenbosch et al. discloses having a computer readable medium containing a data structure for storing channel information on access points in an extended service set, the data structure comprising: address information on each of the on respective access points in the extended service set, (**Dorenbosch et al. discloses having a method and apparatus effecting a handoff between two IP connections for time critical communications (title). Dorenbosch et a. further**

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discloses .having IP address information for AP (access points) within a plurality of BSS(basic service sets) which makes up a ESS (extended service set, see column 5 line 10 -20); information on a channels used by each of the respective access points in the extended service set,(**Dorenbosch et al. discloses having connection information for AP (access points, see column 6 line 39-45);** wherein the channel information is provided to a mobile station to select a new access point during a handoff in a wireless local area network, **see column 6 line 39-50).**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

11. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefkowitz (US Patent 6,990,343) in view of Zhong (PG PUB 2006/0153133).

With regard to claim 1, a handoff method for a mobile station in a wireless local area network; **(Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 with a fast handoff method , see fig 1 and 2, column 11 line 52)** the method comprising: access points in an extended service set and a mobile station; **(Lefkowitz discloses having a STA 205 interpreted as "mobile station" within a ESS 105 interpreted as “ extended service set” in fig. 1 of the wireless communication network 100 contains at least three other WAPs (wireless access points) 120, 130, and 140 (see column 5 line 17-20).**

and scanning channels on the access points by using the channel information to select a new access point of the mobile station, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a STA 205 that performs a scan for signals from other WAP (wireless access points) of sufficient strength, with the STA 205 normally choosing the WAP with the greatest strength (see column 6 line 24-26).**

However, Lefkowitz does not disclose receiving channel information on access points from a present access point. Zhong discloses having a system and method for performing a fast handoff in a wireless local area network (title). Zhong further discloses each AP interpreted as “access point” includes a nearest neighbor table of immediate neighboring AP and their corresponding channel operation interpreted as “channel information” see page 2 para[0032].

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have incorporate a AP which includes a nearest neighbor table of immediate neighboring AP and their corresponding channel operation as taught by Zhong into the Lefkowitz modified handoff procedure whereby minimizing disruptions within the network.

With regard to claim 2, in combination Lefkowitz and Zhong teaches the method recited in claim 1. Wherein the channel information corresponding to each access point of the access points in the extended service set comprises an address of the access point, information on a channel used by the access point, and information on one or more access points adjacent to the access point, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a STA 205 that performs a scan for signals ("information on a channel" used by the access point") from other WAP (wireless access points) of sufficient strength, with the STA 205 normally choosing the WAP with the greatest strength, for example, WAP#2 215 ("access point address" column 6 line 24-26). Lefkowitz further discloses the ESS 105 in fig. 1 of the wireless communication network 100 contains at least three other WAPs interpreted as "access points", see column 5 line 17-20)." In addition, Lefkowitz discloses that a additional information can be transferred between STA 205 and WAP#1 210 and WAP#2 215 such as authentication information and other security information (see column 6 line 51-55). It is construed the authentication information can include address of the access**

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point or information on a channel used by the access point or information on one or more access points adjacent to the access point.

12. Claim 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefkowitz (US Patent 6,990,343) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Rom (US Patent 6,360,264).

With regard to claim 3, Lefkowitz teaches the method recited in claim 1. Further comprising outputting a handoff alert message to the present access point, wherein the receiving of the channel information comprises receiving a response message corresponding to the handoff alert message, the response message including the channel information, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 with a fast handoff method (fig 1 and 2, column 11 line 52). Lefkowitz further disclose at the beginning of a handoff STA 205 transmit an "ASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 220 ("handoff alert message") to WAP#1 210 interpreted as "present access point", see column 5 line 52-55). Lefkowitz discloses STA 205 receives a response "ASSOCIATE- RESPONSE" packet 225 from WAP#1 210, see column 5 line 52-55).**

However, Lefkowitz does not disclose having the response message including the channel information. Rom discloses having a method that is maintaining connectivity

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of nodes in a wireless local area network (title). Rom further discloses having a node receiving a response from a new access point the response packet includes operating parameters such as frequency of the channel, see column 5 line 27-33).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a fast handoff method as taught by Lefkowitz transmitting channel frequency information in a response packet as taught by Rom to advantageously provide method to evaluate channel conditions.

With regard to claim 4, in combination Lefkowitz and Rom teaches the method recited in claim 3. Wherein the outputting of the handoff alert message comprises outputting the handoff alert message in response to receiving a weak signal from the present access point, (**Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 with a fast handoff method (fig 1 and 2, column 11 line 52). Lefkowitz further disclose at the beginning of a handoff STA 205 transmit an "ASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 220 ("handoff alert message") to WAP#1 210 ("present access point")...WAP#1 210 notices that STA 205 is starting to approach the outer limits of its effective area, most likely through the detection of a lower signal level or increased error rates , see column 5 line 38-45).**

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13. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefkowitz (US Patent 6,990,343) as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of Rom (US Patent 6,360,264).

With regard to claim 6, Lefkowitz teaches the handoff method recited in claim 5, wherein the selecting of the new access point, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 with a fast handoff method, see fig 1 and 2, column 11 line 52)**, comprises: outputting a handoff alert message to the previous access point, **(Lefkowitz further disclose at the beginning of a handoff STA 205 transmit an "ASSOCIATE- REQUEST" packet 220("handoff alert message") to WAP#1 210 ("present access point", column 5 line 52-55)**; receiving a response message from the previous access point, the response message including channel information on access points in an extended service set, **(Lefkowitz discloses STA 205 receives a response "ASSOCIATE-RESPONSE" packet 225 from WAP#1 210, see column 5 line 52-55.**

scanning channels on the access points in the extended service set. by using the channel information included in the response message, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a ESS 105 (extended service set) comprised of three other WAP 120,130, and 140 interpreted as "access points", see column 5 line 17-67)**; and selecting an access point with a strongest signal as the new access point, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a STA 205 may perform a scan a signal from other WAP (wireless access points) of**

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sufficient strength, with STA 205 normally choosing the WAP with the greatest signal strength, see column 6 line 24-26).

However, Lefkowitz does not disclose having the response message including the channel information on access points in an extended service set. Rom discloses having a method that is maintaining connectivity of nodes in a wireless local area network (title). Rom further discloses having a node receiving a response from a new access point the response packet includes operating parameters such as frequency of the channel , see column 5 line 27-33).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a fast handoff method as taught by Lefkowitz transmitting channel frequency information in a response packet as taught by Rom to advantageously provide method to evaluate channel conditions.

14. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rom (US Patent 6,360,264) as applied to claim 7 above and in further view of Lefkowitz (US Patent 6,990,343).

With regard to claim 8, Rom teaches the method recited in claim 7.
wherein the collecting of the channel information comprises: broadcasting handoff notification messages to the access points in the extended service set, **(Rom discloses having the typical wireless LAN and that the nodes 10 are organized into**

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geographical regions called "basic service areas"(BSAs) or cells 11 . It is known in the art that extended service set (ESS) comprises a number of basic service sets (BSS). Also, Rom discloses having a node (mobile terminal") receiving a response packet from a access point with it operating parameters such as the frequency of the channel, see column 5 line 28-31).

and receiving acknowledgement messages including the channel information from the access points in the extended service set, **(Rom discloses receiving a response packet from a selected access point the packet include the operating parameters such as the frequency of the channel on which the selected access point communicates with nodes, see column 5 line 28-33).**

However, Rom does not explicit discloses broadcasting handoff notification messages to the access Points in the extended service set. Lefkowitz discloses having a STA 305 transmit a "PROBE REQUEST" message 330 (" handoff notification messages") to one or more access points in WAPS 315 (wireless access points)... STA 35 may transmit multiple PROBE REQUEST".message 330 to as many different wireless access points as it is able to detect...the PROBE REQUEST" message 330 is a essential request from STA 305 to the addressed wireless access point to serve as the access point for STA 305 (column 8 line 25-43).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a having a node receiving information about the frequency of the channel corresponding to the access point as taught by Rom within a

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PROBE REQUEST" message 330 as taught by Lefkowitz to provide a technique that will collect a channel information on new access points.

With regard to claim 9, Rom teaches the method recited in claim 7.

However, Rom does not explicitly disclose outputting an acknowledgement message including personal channel information in response to receiving a handoff notification message from a Present access point of the mobile station,(**Lefkowitz discloses that STA 205 sends an "ACKNOWLEDGMENT" packet 230 to WAP#1 ("present access point")...**, **this "ACKNOWLEDGMENT" packet 230 was sent after WAP#1 210 transmitted a message to STA 205 to inform it to start looking for an alternate wireless access point, see column 5 line 41-45).** It is inferred that the personal channel information is included such as the source of where the packet came from (e.g. channel frequency).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a having a node ("mobile station") as taught by Rom sending "ACKNOWLEDGMENT" packet 230 to WAP#1 ("present access point") as taught by Lefkowitz to maintain the connectivity among the current access point and the STA ("mobile station").

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With regard to claim 10, Rom teaches the method recited in claim 7.

However, Rom does not explicitly disclose stopping services to the mobile station in response to a temporary connection being established with a new access point of the mobile station, **(Lefkowitz discloses that WAP#1 notifies a distribution system (DS) of the impending movement of the STA 205 to a different WAP through a packet 203... the net effect of notifying the DS is that it will expect another notification from a different WAP (wireless access point) of the new context information will be used to route packets to and from the STA 205, see column 6 line 11-21)**. It is inferred that the WAP#1 will initiate the change in the routing of the packets for STA 205 by notifying the DS of the handoff.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a node ("mobile station") as taught by Rom terminate its connection with a WAP#1 as taught by Lefkowitz to prevent delay of packet transmission during a handoff.

Rom does not disclose outputting service data to the new access point through the temporary connection. Lefkowitz discloses having a WAP#2 215 allowing STA 205 to establish a communication link with it and that WAP#2 215 will distribute context information to the DS for STA 205 (column 6 line 31-34). Also, Lefkowitz further discloses STA 205 sending and receiving service packets from WAP#2 215 ("new

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access point", column 6 line 27-40).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a having a node ("mobile station") as taught by R0m with a WAP#2 215 establishing a communication link to receive service packets as taught by Lefkowitz to maintain connectivity within the network during a handoff.

15. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefkowitz (US Patent 6,990,343) in view of Rom (US Patent 6,360,264).

With regard to claim 17, an access point performing a handoff with respect to a mobile station in a wireless local area network, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 ("wireless local area network") with several wireless access points (WAP, "access points") performing a fast handoff, see column 4 line 34-36), the access point comprising: a handoff alert message process unit which receives a handoff alert message and outputs a response message corresponding to the handoff alert message to the mobile station,(** Lefkowitz discloses that the WAP #1 receiving a "ASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 220 ("handoff alert message") from STA 205 and respond by transmitting a "ASSOCIATE-RESPONSE" packet 225 to STA 205, see column 5 line 53-63). It is inferred the WAP have the capability to process "ASSOCIATE- REQUEST" packet 220 ("handoff alert message"); a channel information collection unit which collects channel

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information on access points in an extended service set, (**Lefkowitz discloses that the WAP#1 210 detects a lower signal levels within the outer limits of its effective coverage area, See column 5 line 38-41**). It is inferred that the WAP#1 215 collects channel information within its coverage area.

However, Lefkowitz does not disclose the channel information is included in the response message. Rom further discloses having a node receiving a response from a new access point the response packet includes operating parameters such as frequency of the channel , see column 5 line 27-33).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a fast handoff method as taught by Lefkowitz transmitting channel frequency information in a response packet as taught by Rom to advantageously provide method to evaluate channel conditions.

16. Claim 27 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunkeler (US Patent 6,950,655) in view of US Patent 6,990,343).

With regard to claim 27, an apparatus for use in an access point performing a handoff with respect to a mobile station in a wireless local area network, (**Hunkeler discloses having a AP 302 ("access point") with a processor 312 ("apparatus")**

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that is provided so that handover information which is appropriate for AP's 300 coverage area is accessed from memory 310 and broadcast to the WTRUs (wireless transmit/receive unit) 306,308 within that coverage area, see column 7 line 15-18), comprising: a channel information collection unit which collects channel information on access points in an extended service set in response to a handoff alert signal,(Hunkeler discloses the AP (access point) includes handover information which is inferred that the information can be channel information on the surrounding APs , see column 7 line 15-18).

However, Hunkeler does not explicitly disclose having a temporary connection/termination process unit for establishing a temporary connection between predetermined access points subject to the handoff operation, in response to a reassociation signal. Lefkowitz discloses that the both WAP#1 210 and WAP#2 215 (wireless access points") have the capability to process temporary connection and also terminate connection (column 5 line 52-67 and column 6 line 30-50). Lefkowitz further discloses having a "REASSOCIATE_REQUEST" packet 240 being sent to a new WAP ("wireless access point", see column 28-30).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have AP 302 ("access point") as taught by Hunkeler with a the ability to connect and terminate a connection in response to a

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REASSOCIATE_REQUEST" packet 240 Lefkowitz to provide a seamless connection technique within an access point during a handoff.

With regard to claim 47, a method in a computer system for implementing, a handoff of a mobile station in a wireless local area network, **(Hunkeler discloses having a AP 302 ("access point") with a processor 312 ("apparatus") that is provided so that handover information which is appropriate for AP's 300 coverage area is accessed from memory 310 and broadcast to the WTRUs (wireless transmit/receive unit) 306,308 within that coverage area, see column 7 line 15-18)**, the method comprising: controlling a channel information collection unit to collect channel information on access points in an extended service set in response to receiving a handoff alert message, from the mobile station, **(Hunkeler discloses the AP (access point) includes handover information which is inferred that the information can be channel information on the surrounding APs, see column 7 line 15-18)**.

However, Hunkeler does not explicitly disclose having a controlling a temporary connection/termination process unit to establish a temporary connection with a previous access point of the mobile station in response to receiving a reassociation message from the mobile station. Lefkowitz discloses that the both WAP#1 210 and WAP#2 215 ('wireless access points") have the capability to process temporary connection and also terminate connection (column 5 line 52--67 and column 6 line 30-50) Lefkowitz further

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discloses having a "REASSOCIATE_REQUEST" packet 240 being sent to a new WAP ("wireless access point", see column 28-30).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have AP 302 ("access point") as taught by Hunkeler with a the ability to connect and terminate a connection in response to a REASSOCIATE_REQUEST" packet 240 Lefkowitz to provide a seamless connection technique within an access point during a handoff.

17. Claims 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefkowitz (US Patent 6,990,343) as applied to claim 28 above, and further in view of Rom (US Patent 6,360,264).

With regard to claim 31, Lefkowitz teaches the mobile station recited in claim 28. wherein the handoff alert message process unit comprises: a handoff alert message send unit which outputs a handoff alert message to the present access point,(**Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 in fig. 1 with STAs ("mobile stations")...the STA 205 sending a "ASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 220 ("handoff alert message") to the WAP#1 210 ("present access point") to begin a handoff, see column 5 line 52-56);** and a handoff alert acknowledgment message receiving unit which receives a response message corresponding to the handoff alert message, (**Lefkowitz discloses having a STA 205 receiving a "ASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 220 from WAP#1 210 ("access point", see column 6 line 5-10).**

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It is inferred that STA 205 ("mobile station") have the capability to receiving a response from WAP#1 210 ("access point").

However, Lefkowitz does not having channel information being included in the response message. Rom discloses having a access point responding to with a packet with its operating parameters such as the frequency of the channel , see column 5 line 28-34).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a STAs ("mobile stations") as taught by Lefkowitz receiving a response packet from a access point with its operating parameters such as the frequency of the channel as taught by Rom to advantageously provide method to evaluate channel conditions.

With regard to claim 32, in combination Lefkowitz and Rom teaches the mobile station recited in claim 31. Further comprising a signal strength detection transmit which detects a signal strength of the access points, wherein the handoff alert message send transmit outputs the handoff alert message in response to a predetermined signal strength of the present access point, (**Lefkowitz disclose having STA 205 scanning to find the WAP With the greatest signal strength and sending a "REASSOCIATE-REC~UEST"("handoff alert message") to that particular WAP (Wireless access point"**, see column 6 line 24-40).

18. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefkowitz (US Patent 6,990,343) in view of Rom (US Patent 6,360,264).

With regard to claim 35, Lefkowitz discloses having a mobile station, (Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 in fig. 1 with STAs interpreted as "mobile stations", see column 4 line 66), comprising: a handoff alert message process unit which receives channel information on a plurality of access points different from a present access point in an extended service set from a present access point,(Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 in fig.. 1 with STAs ("mobile stations")...the STA 205 sending a "ASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 220 interpreted as "handoff alert message" to the WAP#1 210 interpreted as a "present access point" to begin a handoff, see column 5 line 52-56).

a scanning unit which scans channels on the access points for a new access point by using the channel information, (Lefkowitz discloses that STA 205 may perform a scan for signals from other WAPs (wireless access points). It is inferred the STA 205 have the means to scan the channel for signals, an access point selection unit which selects an access point with a strongest signal as the new access point according to a scanning result of the scanning unit; Lefkowitz further discloses having STA 205 that performing a scan and selecting the WAP with the greatest signal strength, see column 6 line 22-27);

a signal strength detection unit which detects a signal strength of the access points,(**Lefkowitz disclose having STA 205 scanning to find the WAP with the greatest signal strength and sending a "REASSOCIATE-REQUEST"("handoff alert message") to that particular WAP (Wireless access point", see column 6 line 24-40);** and a reassociation message process unit which establishes a reassociation with the new access point,(**Lefkowitz disclose STA 205 sending a "REASSOCIATE" message, see column 6 line 27- 29).**

a distributed service unit which stores the channel information on the access points ,(**Lefkowitz disclose discloses distributed system (DS) interpreted as "distributed service unit" includes information on a WAP (e.g. wireless access point), see column 6 line 10-50.**

However, Lefkowitz does not having channel information being included in the response message. Rom discloses having an access point responding to with a packet with its operating parameters such as the frequency of the channel (column 5 line 28- 34).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a STAs ("mobile stations") as taught, by Lefkowitz receiving a response packet from a access point with its operating parameters such as the frequency of the channel as taught by Rom to advantageously provide method to evaluate channel conditions.

19. Claim 36 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefkowitz (US Patent 6,990,343) in view of Rom (US Patent 6,360,264).

With regard to claim 36, Lefkowitz discloses having a an apparatus for use in a mobile station in a wireless local area network, comprisingI a handoff alert message send unit which outputs a handoff alert message to a present access point of the mobile station to collect channel information on a plurality of access points different from the present access point in an extended service set, (**Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 in fig. 1 with STAs ("mobile stations").., the STA 205 sending a "ASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 220 ("handoff alert message") to the WAP#1 210 ("present access point") to begin a handoff (column 5 line 52-56). In addition, Lefkowitz discloses STA 205 transmit a "ACKNOWLEDGMENT" packet 230 to WAP#1 to begin looking for a new WAP and that search includes scanning for WAPs with the greatest signal strength, see column 6 line 22-27); and a handoff alert acknowledgment message receiving unit which receives a response message corresponding to the handoff alert message, the channel information being included in the response message,(Lefkowitz discloses having a STA 205 receiving a "ASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 220 from WAP#1 210 ("access point", see column 6 line 5-10). It is inferred that STA 205 ("mobile station") have the capability to receiving a response from WAP#1 210 ("access point").**

However, Lefkowitz does not having channel information being included in the response message. Rom discloses having a access point responding to with a packet with its operating parameters such as the frequency of the channel, see column 5 line 28-34).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a STAs ("mobile stations") as taught by Lefkowitz receiving a response packet from a access point with its operating parameters such as the frequency of the channel as taught by Rom to advantageously provide method to evaluate channel conditions.

With regard to claim 37, in combination Lefkowitz and Rom teaches the apparatus recited in claim 36. further comprising a scanning unit which scans for a new access point using the channel information, **(Lefkowitz discloses that STA 205 may perform a scan for signals from other WAPs , see column 6 line 24-26). It is inferred the STA 205 have the means to scan the channel for signals.**

20. Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lefkowitz (US Patent 6,990,343) as applied to claim 40 above, and further in view of Rom (US Patent 6,360,264).

With regard to claim 41, Lefkowitz teaches the computer readable medium as recited in claim 40. wherein the selecting of the new access point, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a wireless communication network 100 with a fast handoff method, see fig 1 and 2, column 11 line 52)**; outputting a handoff alert message to the previous access point, **(Lefkowitz further disclose at the beginning of a handoff STA 205 transmit an "ASSOCIATE-REQUEST" packet 220 ("handoff alert message") to WAP#1 210 interpreted as "present access point", see column 5 line 52-55)**; receiving a response message from the previous access point, the response message including channel information on access points in an extended service set, **(Lefkowitz discloses STA 205 receives a response 'ASSOCIATE-RESPONSE' packet 225 from WAP#1 210**; scanning channels by using the channel information included in the response message; and selecting an access point with a strongest signal as the new access point, **(Lefkowitz discloses having a STA 205 may perform a scan a signal from other WAP (wireless access points) of sufficient strength, with STA 205 normally choosing the WAP with the greatest signal strength, see column 6 line 24-26).**

However, Lefkowitz does not disclose having the response message including the channel information. Rom discloses having a method that is maintaining connectivity of nodes in a wireless local area network (title). Rom further discloses having a node receiving a response from a new access point the response packet includes operating parameters such as frequency of the channel, see column 5 line 27-33).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have a fast handoff method as taught by Lefkowitz transmitting channel frequency information in a response packet as taught by Rom to advantageously provide method to evaluate channel conditions.

Allowable Subject Matter

21. Claim19 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 54-60 allowed.

Prior Art

22. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Terry (US Patent 7,006,481) discloses having a system and method for integrating WLAN and 3G.

Jaszewski et al. (US Patent 6,208,629).

Heinonen et al. (US Patent 7,103,359).

Andrus et al. (PG PUB 2003/0203735).

Rudnick et al. (OPG PUB 2002/0163928).

Andrus et al. (US Patent 6,993,334).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DEWANDA SAMUEL whose telephone number is (571)270-1213. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Thursday 8:30-5:30 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Q. Ngo can be reached on (571) 272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ricky Ngo/

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/DeWanda Samuel/

Examiner, Art Unit 2616

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